

8 July 1566



**T**he Kinges moost excellent maiestie, vnderstanding howe vnder pretence of expounding and declaring the truth of Gods scripture, diuers leude and euil disposed persons haue taken occasion to vtter and sowe abroad, by Bookes imprinted in the englishe tongue, sundry pernicious and detestable errors and heresies, not only contrary to the lawes of this Realme, but also repugnant to the true sence of Gods lawe and his word. By reason wherof certayne men of late, to the distruction of theyr owne body and soule, and to the euill example of others, haue attempted arrogantly and maliciously to impugne the trueth, and therewith trouble the sobye, quiet and godly religion, vnited and established vnder the Kinges maiestie in this his Realme: His highnes minding to foresee the dangers that might ensue therof, and tending therewith (like a most christen prince) the conseruacion of the true religion in his maiesties dominions from such corrupt and pestilent teaching, as hath of late secretly crept in by such printed bookes, hath thought it necessarily requisite to deuise by his proclamation and auctoritie of the same, howe to auoide and eschewe the sayde daungers and inconuenience, and to pource his common welth of such pernicious doctrine, as by bookes in the englishe tongue hath ben of late diuulged abroad in this his graces realm. For which consideration, hauing the deuill so tempred the setting abroad of his falsched, as he many times annered truthe thereunto, whereby to induce and deceyue the simple people. So as nowe the purging of that whiche is noysome and hurtfull, can not without taking awaye some parte of that being tollerable, be put in execution, being the bookes increased to an infinite numbre, and vniuersall diuersities of titles and names, whereby specially to reuoke adnull or condemne the same. The kinges maiestie is enforced to vse his generall prohibition commaundement and proclamation as foloweth.

**F**irste, that from henceforth no man woman or other person, of what estate, condition or degree so euer he or they be, shall after the last daye of August next ensuing, receiue take haue or kepe in his or their possession, the text of the newe Testament of Tindals or Couerdals translation in englishe, nor any other than is permitted by thacte of Parliament, made in the session of the parliament, holden at Westminster in the. xxxiiii. & .xxxv. yere of his maiesties most noble reigne: nor after the sayde day, shall receiue take or kepe in his or their possession, any maner of booke printed or witten in the englishe tongue, which be or shalbe sette forth, in the names of Frith, Tindall, Wicliffe, Joy, Roie, Basile, Bale, Barnes, Couerdale, Turner, Tracy, or by any of them, or any other booke or bookes, conteyning matter contrary to the kinges maiesties booke, called, A necessary doctrine and erudition for any christen man, or any thing therein conteyned: or any other booke or bookes prohibited or forbidden to be had or kept by the act of parliament holden at Westminster in the. xxxiiii. and. xxxv. yere of the kinges maiesties most victorious reygne aboue sayde.

And furthermoze the kinges maiestie straghtly chargeth and commaundeth, that who so euer, of what estate degree or condition so euer they or he be, hath nowe in his or their custody any such booke printed or witten in englishe, as doth contayne matter contrary to the said doctrine set forth by the kinges maiestie, or be set forth in the name of Frith, Tindall, Wicliffe, Joy, Roie, Basile, Bale, Barnes, Couerdale, Turner, Tracy: Or els the same booke or bookes in englishe be the newe Testament of Tindals or Couerdals translation, or any other prohibited by the sayd acte made Anno. xxxiiii. and. xxxv. shall before the last day of August next comming, deliuer the same englishe booke or bookes to hys master in that householde, if he be a seruauant, or dwell vnder any other: And the maister or ruler of the house, and suche other as dwell at large, shall deliuer all such bookes of the sortes aforesaid, as they haue, or shall come to their handes deliuered as afoze or otherwise, to the Mayre, baylis, or chiefe constable of the towne, wher they dwell, to be by them deliuered ouer openly within. xl. dayes next folowing after the sayd deliuerie, to the sherriffe of the wyre, or to the Bishop, chauncellour, or commissary of the same diocesse, to thintent the sayd bishop, chauncellour, commissarye, and sherriffe, and euery of them, shall cause them incontinently to be openly burned, which the kinges maiesties pleasure is, that euery of theim shall see executed in mosse effectuell sorte, and of their doinges therein make certificat to the kinges maiesties most honorable counsell, before the firste of October next comming.

And to thintent that no man shal mistrust any daunger of such penal statutes as be passed in this behalfe, so: heying of the sayd bookes. The kinges maiestie is most graciously contented by this proclamation to pardon that offence to the



layd tyme appointed by this proclamation for the deliuerie of the sayd booke: And commaundeth that no bishop, chancellour, commissary, mayre, bayliffe, sheriffe, or constable, shall be curiouse to marke who bringeth forth such booke, but onely order and burne them openly, as is in this proclamation ordered.

And if any man, after the laste daie of August nexte comming, shall haue any of the sayde booke in his keeping, or be proued conuined by sufficient witnes before foure of the kinges most honorable counsell, to haue hidden them or bled them, or any coppe of any of them, or any part of them, whereby should appere that he willingly hath offended the true meaning of this proclamation, the same shall not onely suffer imprisonment and punishment of his body at the kinges maiesties will and pleasure, but also shall make such fyne and ransome to his highnes for the same, as by his maiestie or foure of his graces sayd counsell, shall be determined.

Moreover the kinges maiesty straightly chargeth and commaundeth, vpon the peine aforesayde, that from henceforth no printer do print any maner of englishe booke, balet or playe, but he put in his name to the same, with the name of thautour, and daye of the printe, and shall presente the fyist coppe to the mayre of the towne where he dwelleth, and not to suffer any of the copies to go out of his handes within two dayes next folowing.

Finally his maiesty straightly chargeth and commaundeth, that no person or persons, of what estate degree or condition soeuer he or they be, from the day of this proclamation presume to bring any maner of Englishe booke, concerning any matter of chrissten religion, printed in the parties of beyonde the seas, into this realme, or sel geue or distribute any englishe booke, printed in outward parties, or the copie of any such booke, or any part thereof, to any person dwellinge within this his graces realme, or any other his maiesties dominions, onlesse the same shalbe specially licenced so to do by his highnes expresse graunt to be obtained in writing for the same, vpon the paynes before limited, and therewithal to incurre his maiesties extreme indignation.

GOD SAVE THE KINGE.

*Ed. Berthelot regius impressor operabatur.  
Cum privilegio ad imprimendum solum.*

